

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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VIDEO OF MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT ORAL ARGUMENTS, ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCES AND HEARINGS AVAILABLE ONLINE

New service is collaboration between Supreme Court and State Bar of Michigan

LANSING, MI, July 29, 2009 – Video of [Michigan Supreme Court oral arguments](#), [administrative conferences](#) and [administrative hearings](#) will be going online, thanks to a collaboration between the Court and the [State Bar of Michigan](#).

Video will be recorded at the Hall of Justice, then posted on the State Bar's "Virtual Court" web page at <http://www.michbar.org/courts/virtualcourt.cfm> within 24 to 48 hours after the hearing or conference. Viewers can watch selected video and view related agendas or press releases at the same time.

The first videos, including a welcome message from Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly, have been posted. Also available for viewing is video coverage of the Court's July 15 administrative conference, prefaced by an introduction from the chief justice.

Kelly said the new service is part of the Court's commitment to openness and transparency. "While our hearings and administrative conferences are in public, not everyone can make the trip to Lansing to attend," she said. "In a digital age, the public increasingly expects not only physical access, but also virtual access, to government. With this expansion of the Court's online presence, viewers will need only an Internet connection to watch the Court at work."

State Bar President Edward H. Pappas said the online video "will be a valuable tool for attorneys, particularly those who practice before the appellate courts. It's enormously helpful to see others arguing their cases, for example, when you are preparing to go before the Supreme Court yourself.

"But more than that, we believe this new service will give the public an additional window into the workings of the Supreme Court, not only as to the cases the Court decides, but also as to the role it plays in administration of state courts," Pappas added. "We'll continue to develop it and add improvements based on the feedback we get from viewers."

Kelly noted that [Michigan Government Television](#) will continue to broadcast Supreme Court proceedings, as MGTV has done since 1996. "We will still have television coverage, in

many cases live coverage, of the Court, thanks to our valued partner MGTv,” she said. “Online video is simply another way of making the Court more accessible.”

MGTv’s broadcast schedule is available at <http://www.mgtv.org/>.

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